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Pedigree seed. (Brief Article)

Fox, Barry
New Scientist, v168, n2268, p7
Dec 9, 2000

TEXT:

Northland Seed and Grain of Minnesota is trying to patent the seemingly obvious idea of establishing the pedigree of **non -genetically modified** varieties of crops, such as soybean, from original seed order through to supermarket sale (WO 00/48454). The seed is subjected to DNA tests, then sown on plots that have been checked for contamination and are buffered by neutral zones to prevent cross-pollination. The harvesting and processing equipment is also purged of contaminants. Every stage of the process is logged to provide proof of the crop's non-GM pedigree.

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September 3, 1998 Thursday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: BUSINESS; Pg. 4; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 227 words

HEADLINE: ADM ADVISES FARMERS TO SEPARATE THEIR GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS

BYLINE: Reuters.

BODY:

The global battle over genetically modified crops moved closer to U.S. farmers this week when agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland Co. warned suppliers to keep such crops separate from conventional ones.

With harvest only days away in the Corn Belt, farmers and grain merchants heeding the warning will be forced to absorb additional storage and handling costs, industry sources said.

"If you needed two bins before, now you will need four," said Kevin Aandahl, spokesman for the National Corn Growers Association.

Crops genetically altered to resist pests or herbicides made their debut three years ago in the United States and their use has skyrocketed.

An estimated 35 percent of this year's U.S. corn crop and 55 percent of soybeans--almost 5 billion bushels in total--will derive from genetically modified seeds.

But consumer groups in Asia and the European Union, both major export markets, have generated a tide of protest against the use of modified crops in foods and livestock feed.

ADM said in a statement this week that some customers are basing their purchases on the genetic origin of crops.

"We encourage you as our supplier to segregate non-genetically enhanced crops to preserve their identity," the statement said.

ADM is a major buyer of crops, with more than 500 grain elevators and 355 crop processing plants worldwide.

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